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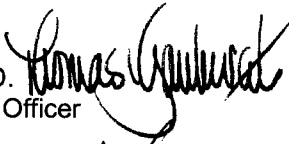
THOMAS L. GARTHWAITE, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer


FRED LEAF
Chief Operating Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
313 N. Figueroa, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 240-8101

August 25, 2005

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D. 
Director and Chief Medical Officer

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. 
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC REPORTING OF HOSPITAL ACQUIRED INFECTIONS**

On May 31, 2005, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Antonovich, directing the Department to report back to the Board with a comprehensive plan developed in cooperation with private hospitals to begin making public the rate of hospital infections by hospital, outbreak information by hospital, and a plan to implement surprise random inspections to ensure compliance. The first status report was made June 30, 2005. This is an update.

State Senate Bill SB739 (Hospitals: infection control, Speier) passed the Senate on June 2, 2005, and was sent to the Assembly, where it was amended July 13, 2005. The next hearing is set for August 17, 2005. We will continue to follow its progress.

On July 25, 2005, the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) convened a workgroup to advise the State on how to reduce hospital acquired infections hospital-associated infections (HAIs). A medical epidemiologist from Public Health is part of this workgroup. The second meeting is set for August 25, 2005. Possible focus areas for the group include: developing quality improvement standards; improving reporting; accountability; resources; evidence based prevention activities and outcomes; public and professional education about HAIs; the public's role in prevention; and facilities not subject to licensing.

Work has begun with the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC) to develop a voluntary plan for HAIs. Our first meeting will be held on August 29, 2005.

We will provide further updates concerning our progress on public reporting of HAIs when significant changes occur. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let us know.

TLG:JEF:mv
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c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors